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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control for a vehicle drive line system (10) including an automated vehicle master clutch (14) drivingly interposed in between a fuel-controlled engine (12) and the input shaft (20) of a mechanical transmission. At sensed idle conditions ($THL < REF$ and $OS < REF$), the engine (12) is commanded to generate an output torque (T_{FW}) equal to a selected idle drive torque (T_{IDLE}) at idle speed ($ES = IDLE$), the engine is commanded to rotate at idle speed and the clutch, preferably a wet clutch, is caused to engage with a torque capacity equal to the idle drive torque.

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